Application Serial No: 10/070,271

Filed: June 13, 2002 Group Art Unit: 3764

Amendments to the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

(Cancelled) 1412.

13. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis comprising: a strapping member adapted for use on a lower leg, having an ankle and a foot; and having an anterior longitudinal stiffener, wherein said anterior longitudinal stiffener is constructed from a reinforced resin to be inflexibly rigid;

a sole plate; and

a strut, wherein said strut is constructed from a reinforced resin to be resiliently and flexibly configurable, and

wherein said strut extends from said anterior longitudinal stiffener to a lateral side of said sole plate such that said strut is disposed adjacent an anterior portion of said ankle to connect <u>said anterior longitudinal stiffener with said strut.</u> connecting the longitudinal stiffener and the sole plate, the strut extending to the sole plate at the outer side thereof, and anterior of the position of the ankle, wherein said strut is flexible.

- 14. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein at least a portion of said strut and said sole plate the flexible portions of the orthosis are is manufactured substantially of one of glass fibre and aramid fibre reinforced resin, and wherein said anterior longitudinal stiffener the inflexible portion is manufactured of a in carbon fibre reinforced resin.
- 15. (Currently Amended) An ankle (foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein said sole plate includes a plate area having an inflexibly rigid portion and a flexibly nonrigid portion wherein the rigidity of sole plate varies over the area thereof, portions being inflexible, and portions being flexible so as to give support to the for supporting said foot while whilst allowing toes on said foot to bend bending of the toes.

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- 16. (Cancelled)
- 17. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein the strapping member is adapted to extend around the sides of a-said leg, and has securing straps adapted to accommodate a variation in leg thickness.
- 18. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 17, wherein said strapping member is moulded constructed from a soft thermoplastic material so as to be mouldable by application of heat.
- 19. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein said strut is encased.
- 20. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 19, wherein said the strut is encased in a sleeve of plastics material.
- 21. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 20, wherein said sleeve is heat shrinkable to allow said sleeve to be tightly moulded so as to mould itself-tightly to the contours of the said strut.
- 22. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein fasteners are provided and whereby the said anterior longitudinal stiffener is movable longitudinally movable relative to said of the strapping member
- 23. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 22, wherein said anterior longitudinal stiffener is disposed on the an inside portion of said strapping member.
- 24. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein said strapping member includes a channel and wherein said anterior longitudinal stiffener resides in a said channel of the strapping member.

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25. (Currently Amended) An ankle/foot ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 24, wherein said channel includes an opening disposed in a bottom portion of said channel is open at the bottom.